

preferably incapable of elastic deformation. The spacer 10, by its anterior, convex sidewall 12 and its posterior, concave sidewall 14, has thereby a concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-25 and 32-43, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 44-62 as indicated below:

44. (New) An intervertebral spacing implant system comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent intervertebral bodies of a human spine, said spacing member comprising an external, non-porous, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member; and

positioning means for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies, said positioning means comprising an elongate member, and a means for releasably attaching the elongate member to the spacing member.

45. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 44 wherein said spacing member further comprises a first

end and a second end, wherein said first end comprises complementary means for releasably attaching the elongate member to the spacing member.

46. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 45 wherein said complementary means for releasably attaching the elongate member to the spacing member comprises a recess in said spacing member.

47. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 46 wherein said complementary means for releasably attaching the elongate member to the spacing member comprises threads in said recess.

48. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 44, wherein said elongate member comprises a sheath member and a rod member slidably insertable into the sheath member.

49. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 48, wherein the rod member has a longer length than the sheath member, such that a proximal portion of the rod member protrudes from the sheath member when said rod member resides within said sheath member and is attached to the spacing member.

50. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 44, wherein the means for releasably attaching the elongate member to the spacing member further comprises a threaded engagement.

51. The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 50, wherein the means for releasably attaching the elongate member to the spacing member further comprises a female threaded recess formed in the spacing member, and wherein the elongate member comprises a male threaded distal end having a size and configuration sufficient to permit threaded engagement between said male threaded distal end of the elongate member and the female threaded recess formed in the spacing member.

52. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 45 wherein said second end of said spacing member comprises a taper in a medial-lateral direction.

53. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 44 wherein said spacing member comprises a planar upper surface and a planar lower surface, said spacing member further comprising a solid configuration characterized by the absence of through holes between said planar upper surface and said planar lower surface.

54. (New) An intervertebral spacing implant system comprising:

a spacing member adapted for implanting between adjacent intervertebral bodies of a human spine, said spacing member comprising an external, concavo-convex contour with respect to one dimension of said spacing member, said spacing member further comprising a first end and a second end, wherein said first end comprises attachment means for releasably attaching positioning means to said spacing member, and said second end comprises a taper such that a thickness of said second end is less than a thickness of said first end; and

positioning means for enabling a surgeon to adjust a position of the spacing member when said spacing member resides between adjacent intervertebral bodies.

55. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 54 wherein said spacing member is non-porous.

56. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 54 wherein said attachment means for releasably attaching positioning means to said spacing member comprises a recess in said spacing member.

57. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 56 wherein said attachment means for releasably attaching positioning means to said spacing member further comprises threads in said recess.

58. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 54, wherein said positioning means comprises a sheath member and a rod member slidably insertable into the sheath member.

59. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 58, wherein the rod member has a longer length than the sheath member, such that a proximal portion of the rod member protrudes from the sheath member when said rod member resides within said sheath member and is attached to the spacing member.

60. (New) The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 54, wherein the attachment means for releasably attaching positioning means to said spacing member further comprises a threaded engagement.

61. The intervertebral spacing implant system of claim 54, wherein the attachment means for releasably attaching positioning means to said spacing member further comprises a female threaded